

Industrial Worker

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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CHICAGO, ILL., FEB., 1967 360

10¢

Left Side

A CHEMIST'S APOLOGY

"Napalm was originally developed to be used against military targets. No one ever thought it would be used against humans." — Louis F. Fieser, Harvard professor and inventor of napalm.

* * *

A napalm bomb is a fire bomb. It was designed, theoretically, to destroy military installations. It also sets fire to people. A fire bomb loaded with 1000 pounds of this jellied gasoline creates a circle of fire 200 feet across wherever it lands. "The people within this radius are roasted; some on the fringe are asphyxiated as well, for napalm burns with such heat that it sucks off all the oxygen in the area."

The stuff is made to stick like a plaster. A gob of it splashed on a person is not easily brushed off. Thus napalm bombs, and their effect, are described in words and pictures by reporters who have observed the yield in death and destruction of U.S. bombings in South and North Vietnam.

* * *

"THERE IS NO BLOOD IN BRIDGES"

These words were used by LBJ in speaking about the military objectives of the U.S. and its Saigon ally in the Vietnam war. True enough. But people do bleed. According to Ramparts magazine (January), "our" side in the war has been responsible for the killing of some 200,000 children alone, and the burning and maiming of three times as many more in the past five years.

All this killing of civilians in a war in which we manifestly should not be involved is not all done by showering towns and countryside with napalm. There are other means, such as the fragmentation bomb mentioned in the report of Harrison Salisbury, assistant managing editor of the New York Times.

* * *

"PEASANTS WRAPPED IN FLAMES"

These words are used in a boycott leaflet, now sponsored by several peace organizations. They ask the public to shun certain household products of the Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan. The company manufactures Dow Saran Wrap and Dow Handi-Wrap. Along with other items, it manufactures napalm. Dow has a \$3.5 million contract with the Air Force to manufacture

(Continued on page 2)



The Big Bite

"If you give government the job of solving your problems, the assured result is not the solution of your problems but the growth of government — and of its take, and of its bite into your paycheck."

"If you look to labor leadership to solve your problems, the outcome is larger office buildings with larger desks and larger swivel chairs, presumably with ever larger and larger leaders occupying them."

"If you look to the joint session of yourself and fellow workers to cope with your problems, you move forward with time into situations where the decisions about your work are steadily more and more made by you fellows, where the product of your labor redounds more and more to your benefit, where the world more and more becomes as you wish it."

Work Overload Produces Strike

A strike of 2,850 workers has shut down the Fisher Body Works in Norwood, Ohio in a work standards dispute with management. The sick market for automobiles

had resulted in many lay-offs. This situation, according to the local UAW president, encouraged management to impose an overload of work on workers remaining on the job.

'Everybody's got shoes'

Chicago's record snow in late January piled snowdrifts high in every street. In the area commonly referred to as "the scene of last summer's riots," there was a great deal of looting of stores and of trucks loaded with merchandise. It was hard for police to get around in the area. They had to walk, mostly. After a couple of days, 600 of them managed to cut the looting down to about the level of pilfering.

Shoe stores, clothing stores and grocery stores got hit hard.

Arriving at a shoe store while it was being stripped of its stock, a police squad fired into a gang of about 50 looters. They arrested about 20 of them. The rest escaped — except one. That one was a 10-year-old Negro girl. She made one big mistake in her short life. She made it when she got herself born in a Chicago slum district.

Public Employees Weary of Bosses' No-Strike Rules

Among the explanations offered for increased militancy among white collar workers and especially among public employees, is the labor market fact that today they feel if they do get fired, they can still get another job.

This labor market situation applies of course to others too, and does warrant heroic efforts to condition and improve all manner of jobs. But public employees have been taking unusual advantage of it.

Recent instances include the public aid workers in New York, for a second round, and not long ago here in Chicago.

The International Association of Fire-Fighters has appointed a fact-finding commission to investigate whether it should change its rules to permit its members to strike. Its members, despite a union rule to the contrary, have struck in St. Louis, Kansas City and Atlanta. (Shades of Coolidge!)

School teachers are marching up to the front of the march of labor. Injunctions and legal barriers and hostile local press have not stopped them from strikes and threats of strikes. This has irritated the conservative citizens to where one Illinois politician hopes to end all this by depriving those who strike of ever getting their pension rights. The response has been to consider this gentleman as a rather befuddled reincarnation of Mr. Scrooge.

Union recognition is for many of the professional and white collar workers the primary hurdle. Local 1006 of the State, County and Municipal Employees, consisting largely of lawyers, accountants and statisticians employed by Illinois Bureau of Employment Security, has sued the state labor director for recognition instead of pulling a strike threat, or possibly prior thereto.

300,000 New Laws

There are 47 regular sessions of state legislatures set to convene during 1967. According to Commerce Clearinghouse, there will be an estimated 90 to 100 thousand bills introduced this year and that the net result will be some 30,000 new laws.

So-called right-to-work laws to ban the union shop are to be introduced in at least a dozen states.

"An Injury to One Is an Injury to All" • One Union One Label One Enemy

Industrial Worker



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EXPLAINING THE IWW

The IWW is made up of Industrial Unions. There is one Industrial Union for each industry in the IWW plan for world-wide labor organization. No matter what work you do as a wage or salary worker, there is an Industrial Union to which you may belong.

Members of the IWW are classified in Industrial Unions, not to separate them from each other, but for practical convenience. All are members of the One Big Union. The Industrial Union structure enables workers immediately concerned with specific problems in an industry or on a job to make decisions for appropriate action.

All workers on the same job belong in the same Industrial Union, along with all others on other jobs in the same industry.

Between these Industrial Unions there is a free transfer system. If you change your work and enter another industry, you transfer to another Industrial Union of the IWW.

Members of the IWW have common interests besides those concerned with specific jobs in specific industries. They are interested in all conditions and circumstances that affect the wellbeing of the working class. Therefore, when occasion demands, the Industrial Union divisions are disregarded and members meet together as members of the One Big Union to decide on group activities in line with the goals and tactics of the IWW. Such meetings at present are called General Membership meetings.

WHERE ACTION COUNTS

In the long history of labor struggles workers have often found it wise to "transfer a strike to the job." In some instances the maneuver was highly successful.

Today the crucial test of youthful radicals, students and others, comes when in the inevitable course of events they move on to take their place in industry as workers. The key question asked of each of them is: Will you take your radicalism with you on the job and apply it in a constructive way?

RECOGNITION IN PRINCIPLE

"All labor and trade union internationals for the past hundred years have been based on the idea that the workers of all countries have basic interests in common, and that these common interests are stronger than any that may tie the working class of any one country to its own rulers, or to any other social group in that country."

—International Food & Allied Workers Bulletin

DON'T DITHER

The Indian Libertarian not long ago accused Indira Gandhi of dithering. London Times said she was not. Subject interests chiefly because of the word "dither." Wonder if we've got some ditherers on the job here. Line-ups and subs are coming in, but not enough. If any of you Wobs are dithering, please stop it and get busy building the One Big Union.



In Memory of an Honored Companero

BLAS LARA C. 1878-1966

On an early Monday morning of December 12th of the immediate year past a pair of eyes that had witnessed a great transition in the lives of working men of two countries closed for the final time and the great heart whose passion helped bring about some of this transition beat no longer.

Fellow Worker Blas Lara Casares, a long-time fighter for the cause of Industrial Unionism and also a long standing member of the Federacion Anarquista Mexi-

cana, not only contributed much literary dynamite to Regeneration and erstwhile Spanish publications but contributed also to many papers south of the border in his later years.

Born in a small Indian village in

Born in a small Indian village in state of Jalisco of peon parents, he in his growing years saw the great disparity between the lives of the peons who lived in wretched poverty and the hacendados who lived in unearned luxury as well as the connivance of the clergy who blatantly abetted those conditions. It was only natural that when the Revolution broke out in Mexico he was there to take his position among those who fought for the deliverance of their homeland. He joined forces with the brothers Ricardo and Enrique Flores-Magon who were the founders of the paper, Regeneration and later were sentenced to Leavenworth in the United States.

Those who knew Fellow Worker Lara have had the pleasure of knowing a dedicated man as well as a living page of history from the Mexican Revolution. To have been called "Companero" by Blas Lara was a privilege no one ever took lightly. Those of his Fellow Workers or Companeros on either side of the border who still survive him, while philosophically accepting the inevitability of passing time nevertheless feel deeply the vacuum that his absence has left. His estate was divided between the IWW and the Spanish Camaradas now living a life of exile in France. We salute the memory of a Fellow Worker and Companero whose life was well spent in the cause of Working Class Liberation.

—Carlos Cortez

Left Side . . .

(Continued from page 1)

ture napalm for use in "the most popular bomb in Vietnam, because it's both cheap and deadly." Dow also supplies polystyrene, the ingredient which jells gasoline and makes it adhesive, to other manufacturers of napalm. The price of napalm naturally, is going up.

The boycott appeal to consumers is a feeble gesture; it's just a little bit more than nothing at all in this instance. But again, a vital question is raised: When will labor, democratically and together in the major industrial areas of the world, decide what NOT to produce in the factories it builds and operates?

We work diligently, though far from diligently enough, to improve the conditions under which production shall be carried on—the wage, hour and conditions program of every-day labor activity. We leave practically everything else to a handful of parasitic dictators. This calls for serious consideration.—

—Anonymous

Mike McQuirk

Minipay up Feb. 1

The 89th Congress passed an addition to the Federal Minimum Wage law. It went into effect Feb. 1. Previously covered workers, nearly 30,000,000, now have their minimum raised to 1.40 an hour from the previous \$1.25 an hour. Actually, only 3,800,000 of these previously covered slaves are affected. The rest of them were already getting \$1.40 or more.

Eight million previously not covered workers are now covered by the law. These are now guaranteed a minimum of \$1.00 an hour. (Don't raise 'em too high, men, they might get sick from over-eating.) But seven million of these eight million were already earning a dollar or more an hour without the aid of a law.

Of the newly covered workers, 390,000 are farm workers. This has been called "the historic breakthrough" by the President. So far it applies only on farms employing the equivalent of seven or more steady workers.

Next February there will be further raises in the minimum as provided by the law.

Most farm products are produced for interstate commerce. Up to now, a special exception in the Federal Minimum wage law has excluded farm workers from enjoying its "benefits". The new amendment is the "historic breakthrough."

MODERN TIMES

In savage times when skulls were thick

And primal passions raged,
They had a method sure and quick,

To cure the blight of age.
For when a person's youth had fled,
And years had sapped his vim,
They simply knocked him on the head

And put an end to him.

But we, in this enlightened age,
Are built of nobler stuff,
And so we look with righteous rage
On deeds so harsh and rough.
For when a man is old and gray
And weak and short of breath,
We simply take his job away
And let him starve to death.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

BRANCH MEETINGS

HOUSTON, Texas. — Robert (Blackie) Vaughan is the acting Secretary of the Houston I.U. 510 branch. All communications intended for the branch should be addressed to him at 7505 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Tex. 77011.

* * *

SAN FRANCISCO. — Michael Brown, 26 Prospect Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. 94110, is acting secretary for the branch pending decision on the opening of a new branch office.

* * *

BERKELEY, Cali. — For information about meetings, socials, and other activities contact Robert Rush, Secretary, 1723 10th St., Telephone: 524-1989.

* * *

DULUTH, Minn. — Write to Pat McMillan, Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 559 for information and contacts.

* * *

CHICAGO branch general membership meetings are now being held on the first Friday of the month at 2422 N. Halsted Street. W. H. Westman, Secretary.

* * *

NEW YORK CITY — Branch Secretary is Douglas Roycroft. Mailing address and business office: 71 East 3rd St. No., 14, New York, N.Y. 10003. Tel. 477-2758.

* * *

YAKIMA, Wash. — For information about work and organization opportunities in the fruit and farm areas of Eastern Washington, get in touch with George C. Underwood, 102 South 3rd Ave., telephone GLencourt 3-2046.

* * *

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — IWW Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 46583, Los Angeles; or call EX 88110.

Medicare Loyalty

Oath Held

Unconstitutional

About two million elderly Americans who do not receive Social Security payments, usually because they have not worked on a covered job, still do have the right to Medicare benefits provided, according to the Medicare law, they swear that they do not belong to any group that Congress thinks might want to overthrow the government.

Two New York women, one age 70 and her mother, age 96, refused to swear that they were not communists. They took the case to a special three-judge panel. The judge refused to listen to the case, claiming that the two women were not subversive and that only an admitted subversive had

Crystal Gazers
Report on Jobs

Unemployment climbed during December, the Dept. of Labor reported, but immediately thereafter the Department made the optimistic prediction that the 1967 jobless rate would remain "stable" at from 3.9 to 4 per cent.

Some private forecasts express a more gloomy view of the jobless situation, claiming that the rate will reach 4.5 per cent of the workforce.

For 1967, the Labor Department estimates the workforce (employed and unemployed) will grow by 1.4 million workers. Last year the increase in the total number of workers was 1.8 million.

To maintain the steady rate of unemployment predicted by the government, the economy will have to provide about 1.7 NEW non-farm jobs.

Disregarding the cheerful views of expert crystal gazers, working stiffs are wondering how many OLD jobs will be lost to automation and to what extent will appearance of new jobs be curbed by "work overloading" and overtime? And how can the so-called high level of consumer buying be maintained, or increased — thus creating new jobs in industries producing consumer goods — while the wages of the vast majority of workers, the unorganized, remain virtually "stabilized" at the present very low level?

"Nuts to the experts," say the wise workers, "they've been wrong before." I agree with them.

—Mike McQuirk

Kerr Loses Job

Dr. Clark Kerr has lost his \$45,000 a year job as president of the University of California. It was the rising tide of Birchite ooze in California that pushed Kerr out. The campus radicals didn't like him either, as was clearly shown in three turbulent years of student demonstrations against official university policy. But the ouster was a victory for the Regan Right, not for the Left-New, Old or Beat.

the legal right to challenge the law in this instance.

The women appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Justice Department then entered the case. Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall filed a memorandum with the Court admitting that the oath requirement was unconstitutional.

The administration deserves congratulations for refusing to fight the elderly women. But what should be said about the congressmen who put such a foolish clause in the Medicare law in the first place? —UE News

Virgil Vogel
To Speak
At IWW Forum

On Saturday, February 18, at 8 p.m., Virgil Vogel will speak at the first session of the newly launched IWW Open Forum at 2422 N. Halsted St., second floor. Everyone interested is invited.

Mr. Vogel, teacher, writer and earnest advocate of democratic industrial unionism, has chosen for his subject "The Communist Influence in Labor Unions." There will be audience participation in the usual question and discussion periods.

Members of the Chicago IWW branch are convinced the time is ripe for a revival of the labor forum for discussion of economic and social problems. They urge all fellow workers and friends to help make this fresh start a rousing success.

Britain Still Balks

A British firm which has closed a deal to sell a \$39,200,000 fertilizer plant to Cuba has received blessings and guarantee of the pay-off from the British government. The U.S. State Department has made the usual protest.

Some American congressmen criticize the deal because it comes at a time when Britain is asking the U.S. to join in mandatory economic sanctions against the white minority that rules in Rhodesia. They apparently think one boycott deserves another, no matter what the circumstances.

It has been irking our "statesmen" no end and for a long time

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that our allies don't always follow the State Department's lead in passing out reward and punishment to lesser nations. A fertilizer plant in Cuba means more food for Cubans. There seems to be no good reason why they should not be permitted to have it.

Wirtz Sues Ward

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz filed suit against Montgomery Ward & Co. to enjoin it from violating the Fair Labor and Standards Act, the federal wage and hour law.

The suit names the parent company in Chicago and its retail store in Anderson, Ind. It charges violation of minimum wage and overtime provisions of the act, and with discrimination on the basis of sex.

Preamble

• **THE WORKING CLASS** and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of management of the industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

• **IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS** to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

PAGES FROM IWW HISTORY

THE SPOKANE FREE SPEECH FIGHT, 1909

BY RICHARD BRAZIER

(This is the last of three installments of an oldtimers's recollections of one outstanding episode in the struggle of Northwest workingmen for recognition as members of the community, rather than as just "timberbeasts," through organization in the IWW.—Editor).

Before describing "the march of the hungry men" it is better to say a little about the conditions in our make-shift prison. As noted before, it was the old, condemned Franklin Schoolhouse which had been hastily patched up to contain the overflow of Wobbly prisoners from the congested city jail.

It was put to use at once. On the day following the opening of the Free Speech Fight, when more than a hundred of us had been arrested, some 45 were shifted to the Franklin Schoolhouse. I was among them.

When we got there, we found no cells or bunks. We were herded into large class rooms in which there were no chairs, or seats, or beds of any kind; nothing to lie or sit on except the bare floor. Toward evening we were each given two thin blankets. Holding them up to the light you could see right through them.

Having wangled some old newspapers from the guards, we spread these on the floor to lie on. With only the thin blankets for covering we still had to sleep in all our clothes. Fortunately, most of us had on our winter clothes—heavy socks, underwear and shirts; also makinaws or overcoats—the winter outfit needed by a lumberjack in that area. Those not so well clad slept in the middle.

We had started the hunger strike while still in the city jail and we continued with it in the schoolhouse jail. However, the cops tried to feed us by throwing in to us loaves of stale and doughy bread, the left-overs from a nearby bakery. One bite of that stuff was enough to convince us that living on water alone would be better than trying to digest the bread. So on a water diet we stayed for our health's sake. We told the guards to keep their punk. But they tried to tempt us a few more times with more of the same. We threw it back to them.

Sanitary conveniences consisted of a small lavatory room with two toilets and a urinal. There was no bath, not even a shower. The only place where we could wash-up and get our drinking water was a little sink from the faucets of which only cold water ran. Since we were denied soap and towels, it was impossible for us to keep decently clean. We could give ourselves only a few cat-licks with wet handkerchiefs and dry ourselves with torn-off pieces of shirts. Being on hunger

strike, other sanitation problems were not serious.

The only cooking facilities in the Schoolhouse prison were those the cops had set up for themselves in a little anti-room from which they kept watch over us. They had put up a stove and, equipped with pots and pans, they spent most of the time cooking for themselves.

The cops had a nasty habit of leaving their door open so that when they were cooking and eating we got full benefit of the food aroma. This they did deliberately in order to tantalize us. They thought the fragrant odor of their ham and eggs, steak and onions, and their Irish stews would break down our resistance and induce us to break our fast.

Many times they tried to break our spirit, and our hunger strike, by promising us the best meal in town—anything we wanted—if we would only cut out this foolish idea of starving ourselves; immediate freedom would be ours, they said — and here came the snapper — if we would promise to leave town right away and forget the Free Speech Fight.

What these cops didn't know was that we soon passed the crucial stage in a hunger strike when all one does is to talk, think and dream of food. Now the pangs were gone and we could laugh at their offers with easy contempt. They really thought that hunger had made us a little mad.

We were allowed no visitors. We were practically held incommunicado. But news of the bad conditions under which we were held got to the outside and quite a stir was created, as we learned later. People protested. So much so that the city officials made arrangements to have us taken down to the city jail for a weekly bath and a cleanup.

Having been without hot water, soap and towels for over two weeks, one may imagine how we felt and looked when we were told that we were to be marched down to the city jail for a bath. Besides some concern about our appearance, we were more than a little doubtful if all of our fellow hunger strikers could make that long march—about a mile—to the jail.

We wondered, also, what would be the attitude of the crowds that would surely gather to watch this march. Would they be friendly or hostile? We had no way of knowing.

Being held incommunicado, we got none of our own papers, or any communication from friends and fellow workers on the outside. Once in a while, guards would toss us a copy of the Spokesman Review, Spokane's largest daily, which was hostile toward labor unions, especially the IWW. According to that paper, the Free

Speech Fight was practically over and the Wobblies had lost out.

This we could not and did not believe. We knew that there were at least 300 prisoners in the city jail, besides our Schoolhouse group; that many of these would have their sentences served and that they would be willing to face further arrests, if necessary, to keep the Free Speech Fight going.

At that time, the city had not the continuing flow of Free Speech fighters, but it got it soon thereafter.

Came the day of the march. We had all spruced up a little, as best we could, for our coming public debut. We did the best we could. Some of the older men were beginning to look like Biblical patriarchs with beards and flowing locks. Most of us were younger men.

Between 11 o'clock and noon on the great day, guards lined us up, saying: "The entire police force, horse and foot, are here to escort you to the shower-baths."

So they lined us up, two by two, and turned us over to the cops waiting for us outside. Our guards saw us to the front door of our schoolhouse apology for a jail, and then the outside cops took over the duty of guarding us.

We were amazed when we saw the pavements on both sides of the street lined up with dense crowds of people who, as soon as we came through the door and got to the center of the roadway, set up a tremendous roar of welcome and clapping of hands.

We knew at once that this was not a hostile crowd howling for our blood, but was, to the contrary, a very kind and friendly crowd applauding our stand for Free Speech and thus giving the lie to the false stories we had read in the scabby newspaper. Above the roar of the crowd, when it subsided a little, we could hear the Wobblies singing, loud and strong, that famous marching song of the British dock strikers, "Hold the Fort"—in which we weakly joined, for our voices were as weak as our legs.

We marched slowly, very slowly, for a block or so. Then it was that a veritable shower of presents from the sky dropped upon us. Thrown over the heads of cops on horseback and cops on foot alike, they dropped almost into our hands as we reached for them. There were sacks of sandwiches, sacks of Bull Durham, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, candy, slices of cake, oranges and apples, and even cans of Copenhagen snuff—"snoose," as it was known throughout the West.

As the offering of the crowd showered down on us, we sat down right in the middle of the

road and started to eat what we fancied first. (Fast or not, this was no time for rejecting the gift of friends.)

The cops, at first, tried to take from us what we had picked up. But the anger of the crowd became so menacing and their threats against the cops so violent that Chief of Police Sullivan became scared and he rode up and down the lines and ordered them to return everything they had taken from us and not to bother us any more. Then he asked us if we thought we were able to finish the march. We replied that we couldn't.

We told him the excitement of the crowds had excited us also, and we had, perhaps, eaten some of the food thrown to us too fast and that it had upset some of us. We suggested that he send for the Black Marias or "piewaggon" to dide us down to the city jail.

But the Chief had already sent for transportation and he told us to ride us down to the city jail.

rived to take us to our baths. So what had been intended as a long march for weak and hungry men, became a long sit-down and a short ride to the city jail and a short ride back to our schoolhouse jail. That ended the one and only "march" of the hunger-striking men. The city officials never tried to repeat it. The public reception we received scared them.

The officials had, of course, blundered. They had thought to exhibit a bunch of imprisoned Wobblies looking like a bunch of bums in a manner to discredit the work the IWW had done and was doing. But when our appearance was greeted with cheers and gifts of food and tobacco instead of brickbats, great was the consternation of the city officials.

One advantage this shabby, unsanitary, patched-up Franklin Schoolhouse emergency jail had over the regular jail. It was the fact that we were not penned in small crowded cells. We had a large classroom to move around in. We were crowded, but not to the extent that the prisoners in the city jail were. We at least had room in which to exercise.

Then, too, being all congregated together, we were able to hold our "bull sessions," or discussion meetings, whenever we were so inclined, which was often. So, while doing time there was not pleasant, we were able to relieve the boredom to a great degree. We became better acquainted with each other as time passed and this led to companionship that eased the burden of otherwise monotonous time.

We were, indeed, "a happy band of brothers" in durance vile. The bond that drew and held us together was our membership card in the IWW, our "Ducat," as some fondly called it.

In general, we were strangers to one another until the Free Speech fight and incarceration

(Continued on page 5)

SPOKANE FREE SPEECH

(Continued from page 4)

brought us together. But opportunity to walk around and talk soon removed the strangeness of new faces and brought in its stead that feeling of companionship so typical among Wobblies wherever they chance to meet, no matter where or under what circumstances.

Such being the case it was not long before we began to act as though we were in a Wobbly hall instead of prison. We engaged in discussions on just about everything we had ever heard or read about, or had experienced. Many of these Wobblies, especially the oldtimers whose experience in the labor struggle dated back to times before the IWW was born, were well-read men and had traveled extensively. There was always some one ready and able to talk on Industrial Unionism, Socialism or one of the social sciences.

Nor was the Little Red Songbook forgotten. Its first edition had just been published. We sang the songs in it from cover to cover and also many of the popular songs of the day. Looking back to that day it seems to me now that we were fortunate in that the most unmusical of all tunes—Rock and Roll—was still far in the future . . .

But all things, good and bad, must have an end. Our imprisonment came to an end with the termination of our 30-day sentences. We were released in groups as sentences expired. I was in the first group of about 40. We left about 100 of our fellow workers, who had been arrested later, behind in the jail's three "classrooms." (I should note that the only time all the prisoners in this schoolhouse jail got together was on the day of the "march." We had been held separate in three groups, each occupying one of the school's three floors.)

We were vanned down to the city jail to collect our belongings and to be signed out. When we got there, we found that most of the city jail prisoners due to be released at that time had already been turned loose. As I stood in line waiting my turn at the desk, I was surprised when a detective came up to me and told me I was under arrest on a charge of conspiracy.

I was taken to a bull pen where a number of men were walking up and down. I learned we were all waiting to be taken to the county jail. We were not city prisoners any more. I knew some of the others who were waiting. There was Jim Wilson, the branch secretary; C. L. Filigno, branch treasurer, and members Louis Gatewood, Tom Dixon and Scotty Borland. Two others I did not know then, but later on I knew them both as very active members. They were John Panzer and Otto Justin. Later we were taken to the

County jail, arriving just in time for dinner. It was some kind of goulash. It was the first solid meal I had had in nearly three weeks. It seemed good.

Jim Wilson and C. L. Filigno were bailed out after a day or two. So was Gurley Flynn, who had been named a conspirator with the rest of us. Although we were well defended at the trial, by Attorney Fred F. Moore, we were all convicted and sentenced to six months in jail. The cases were appealed and Wilson, Filigno and Flynn were again bailed out pending the appeal to a higher court.

The cases did not reach that higher court because, after the Free Speech Fight ended in a victory for us, the IWW threatened a new free speech fight if those convicted on the conspiracy charge were not released, it having been understood that we would be released when the original fight ended. So, after serving a little more than half our sentence, we were granted a pardon by the Governor of the State. And thus ended the now historic Spokane Free Speech Fight of 1909-10.

If I am asked, "Was it all worth while?" I can only answer with a positive "yes." The fight was forced on us by a combination of robbing employment sharks and corrupt city officials whose hands had dug deep into the slush fund raised by employment sharks and employers to fight the IWW, to curb our activity in every possible way.

The IWW at that time had the finest union hall it ever had in Spokane. Our membership was increasing rapidly. We were right in the slave market where the workers we were organizing congregated. We were close, also, to where the employment sharks hung out their lying signs that snared the unwary into their robbers' dens. We were strategically situated in a city that was the great job center and shipping-out point of a vast territory. It was our place in the sun and we fought to hold it.

I venture to say that not one of the many hundreds of Wobblies who came from near and far to join the fight ever regretted the decisions they made then, or the experiences they gained from it. We were an army of young men, many barely out of our teens, with a sprinkling of older men among us, but the spirit and enthusiasm of youth for a cause animated us all alike, and we answered the call for action gladly.

The British Labor Government says "It's necessary to reduce domestic demand." LBJ plays the same tune. An old Texas farmer I once worked for put it this way, "We gotta live on what we can't sell."

VIEWPOINT CANADA

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Fellow Worker J. B. McAndrew and I move and second that a regular column be initiated in the Industrial Worker to present the IWW argument from our point of view as it relates to present-day workingclass conditions in Canada.

The IWW in Canada has declined as far as it can go without becoming extinct altogether. In this situation we have two alternatives: (1) to stand by idle and hopefully wait for others to pick up the pieces of our great program, while the IWW itself continues to wither away, or (2) to launch a plan for the rebirth, renewal, and EXPANSION ourselves.

For those who see the IWW in the light of the first alternative, a column like **Viewpoint Canada** is a futile gesture. We can only hope they will change their minds and see things in an optimistic way.

We, on the other hand, believe that not only are the basic principles of the IWW still valid, but that this organization is itself fully capable of promoting them in Canada, provided its apparatus and supporters can regain some youthful vigor.

There is a vacuum in working-class leadership to be filled. Among the older workers there is a growing cynicism as regards the results of ordinary trade unionism and labor politics. And certainly the rise of the New Left indicates the complete disenchantment of younger generation radicals with the present trade union bureaucracies and the "official" brands of socialism and communism passed down from the post World War 1 era.

We know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that in the post-War era the IWW won the general debate, for we predicted accurately what would happen to a labor movement that allowed itself to be guided by politicians and conventional union leaders. But we failed to get the support of the workingclass. We failed to win out partly because of the world-shaking nature of the Russian revolution which swept into its tide many of the leading people of the IWW; and partly, possibly, because of mistakes of our own in policy and tactics in those very trying times.

In this connection it is always easy to lay blame for difficulties on the backs of others. Failure of leadership is frequently blamed on "stupidity" of the ordinary workers. However, when you consider the actual alternatives which workers face at any time or in any situation, they usually make fairly reasonable choices.

Fellow Canadian Workers:

The time has come for the IWW to be refurbished here, to be reargued, and used again as a weap-

on in the struggle for the Cooperative Commonwealth.

For us this is a matter of faith. The principles of the I.W.W. can again become a material force to change the world in favour of the working class and of social progress, perhaps this time in the way of a final victory.

However, it looks as if a great deal of new thinking, new action, and new organizing must be carried out before the IWW can regain real influence with the working people—who, after all, are exceedingly pragmatic. Perhaps we should go along with Louis Mumford's remark: "All living beliefs, all living desires and ideas, must be perpetually renewed, from generation to generation: rethought, reconsidered, re-willed, rebuilt, if they are to endure."

Fellow Workers:

Let's take a good long critical look at ourselves. Let's make a new beginning.

But let us approach our situation with clear heads and eyes, with plenty of compassion and understanding and with a strong feeling of fellowship and solidarity among ourselves and towards our friends, especially the radical youth.

"Good luck to all of you" in this year of Canada's Centennial.

—C. J. Christopher X323323

District 50 Raids Again

Portland, Oregon Metal Trades Council (AFL-CIO) is striking back at an attempted invasion of shipyards, where Electrical Workers are currently on strike, by an outfit that claims to have a one big union to offer. The invader is District 50 of the United Mine Workers.

Looking for evidence of achievements on the Pacific Coast by this Mine Workers' "industrial union" baby which operates outside the coal fields, the Council discovered that down in Inglewood, Calif. District 50 members were working last year, under contract with Hallett Mfg., for wages little more than half those received by other union men in the same categories. For instance: District 50 truck-drivers got \$1.73 an hour while the prevailing union scale was \$3.50.

Certainly there is a need for industrial unionism in the shipyards, and elsewhere, too. Craft strikes, even when they win, are but a sick substitute for real labor action. But the District 50 appendage to Thomas Kennedy's UMW hasn't got the guts or the principle to fight for better unionism. In fact, almost all cases of union raiding seem to involve secret deals with employers to the detriment of the slaves.

—New Wobbly

FRANKLY SPEAKING

BY EDWARD E. LUOMA

(Special to Industrial Worker and Industrialist)

COMING RECESSION

As any observer realizes, our economic system may go up for a period but it will inevitably turn down. Periods of boom are always followed by recession.

This is what appears to be happening at the present time. After almost six years of continuous boom, the economy is finally showing signs of slowing down. In fact, many aspects of the economic system are already experiencing a recession although it is too early to say whether business as a whole has turned down.

For instance, there can be no question that the automobile industry has been suffering a recession. After several years of booming auto sales, it just seems as if there is no room for more. As a result, declines in sales began last spring and have been persistent enough since then to push sales for the whole of 1966 below those of 1965 by about 4%. December was the third month in a row that sales lagged behind 1965 by an even larger 6% or more.

It is difficult to predict how auto sales will be in the first few months of 1967 but production schedules for the first three months are down almost 15% from a year ago. It is further feared that the need to cut dealer inventories may make the decline even larger. This can only result in high rates of unemployment among workers in the auto industry.

Another field that more recently entered a recession is that of appliances. In the week ending January 6 General Electric announced some layoffs blaming continuing sales lag in both the consumer and industrial markets.

As everyone is aware, home building is in a deep recession. Until last April housing starts for most months had been around an annual rate of 1.5 million. It had declined to a 1.1 million annual rate for the four months through last November with one month, October, showing a rate barely above 800,000 a year. This is down to almost half the rate that was sustained for three years until last April.

There is no such deep recession in other construction fields although even in these fields the rising trend has been converted to a level one. Commercial and industrial building awards are down from their peaks last spring but have generally remained at 1956 levels.

The steel industry is also in a recession. Production in the week of Dec. 17 was down to 130% of the 1957-59 average after having been as high as 149% last May.

Significantly, in order to have a job in the Hibbing, Minnesota area of the Oliver Iron Mining Co.

a miner must now have seniority dating from the year 1934.

The important point to note about this decline in steel is that it has taken place despite the continuing increases in Government spending on Vietnam. In fact the entire present downturn is significant in that almost a full scale war is progressing at the same time.

This all shows that Government managers are unable to prevent the normal course of events within the capitalist economic structure. The usual sequence is for bond prices to turn down as the top of a boom approaches, followed first by stock prices and then by general business.

In the present instance bonds turned down in the early summer of 1965. The stock market followed last February and now it seems that some key fields of private business have begun to move down. If the pattern follows true to form, the lowest points of the oncoming recession will occur in the early part of this year.

It is important to point out that this will be the first recession after the civil rights movement has moved to its present level. Considering that Negro unemployment generally runs at a level of twice white unemployment, next summer may very well be one of the hottest yet.

Pronounced 'Greedy'

Appleton, Wis. — A former president of the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers who operates nine foundries told a group of university students here that he favors repeal of every labor law, including those forbidding child labor.

The speaker, Wm. J. Grede (pronounced "greedy") does not limit his activities to making speeches. He is one of the founders of the John Birch Society and a militant anti-unionist.

Attempting to justify his position on the child labor question, he declared "no one is smart enough to tell us when we are old enough to work or how much we should be paid or how long we should work." And he added, "I'm for freedom."

This freedom, however, in Grede's view does not give workers the right to belong to a union. Eight of his own plants were non-union, he declared, and he was going to keep them that way even though two of them had recently voted for a union. "We'll refuse to bargain," he said. The ninth plant in his string had a union when he got it.

The students were shocked by the Grede philosophy.

More Information Wanted on Joe Hill

The literature on Joe Hill increases. One author, Gibbs M. Smith, trying to write a comprehensive account of Hill that will include all known facts, has given me an opportunity to read the draft of his manuscript while it can still be re-worked. It is based on very extensive research in Sweden and here, including newspapers and labor papers of the period, periodical literature, all that is available of documents relating to the trial, and extensive correspondence. But it still leaves many questions open, some major some minor.

One gap is the period April 1906 to December 1910. This account traces Hill's boyhood from his birth Oct. 7, 1879 to his trip to America on the Saxonia in October 1902, and includes Stockholm hospital records accounting for the facial scars he received in his boyhood. It establishes a Christmas card sent from Cleveland to his sister in 1903, and a letter to his hometown paper from San Francisco in April 1906 about his experiences in the earthquake. Then we have no definite record of his whereabouts until his participation in the Madero revolt in Mexico in the early months of 1911. There are vague indications of a wandering life in between, winding up in San Pedro, but nothing definite. There are reports he lived for a time in Philadelphia and in Hawaii. We would welcome any statement pinpointing his living or working anywhere at any specified time, before or after 1911. Did he write the Fraser River song at the strike scene in British Columbia, or in California?

When did he join the IWW? Various accounts say in 1910, but on what evidence? Chaplin's talk with Holland (who turned out to have been Joe's brother, not his cousin) indicates the San Pedro Wobbly secretary induced him to join after he had written Casey Jones. The occasion for writing this was not until the Harriman shopmen's strike which started in September 1911, and its first appearance in the songbook is in the 1912 edition, while "Long Haired Preachers" is in the 1911 edition. Can anyone set the record straight on that?

His funeral accounts regularly refer to his wearing the San

Pedro local IWW button. Was there such a button, or did he wear the same IWW button as a member of any local would have worn? These funeral accounts sometimes refer to his old membership card in the San Pedro local, but no record seems to have been made and kept available of what that card gave as initiation date. Another minor puzzle relating to the funeral is this: the audience marched from Taylor and Racine to the El station at Halsted and Van Buren where they took chartered trains to Graceland Cemetery, but how was the casket taken there? On the El?

During the last weeks of Joe's life an IWW soapboxer, Horton, was shot by a policeman as he made a speech in Salt Lake City. This seems to have been eclipsed by the pending execution of Hill and little said about it. Has anyone any recollections relating to this?

Specifically we would welcome any information relating to Hill's involvement in a longshore strike in San Pedro in July 1912, or data about that strike, or his involvement in any organizational activity elsewhere. Little of this has got into the record.

This is likely to be last call for any data on Hill to be made available for what seems likely to be the thorough and complete account of his life. There must be many who remember back to 1910—so let's have it.

—Fred Thompson

Food As a Weapon

Wherever there is hunger in the world, the ruling class uses food as a weapon, by offering or withholding it, to force the working class to "behave".

Vol. 7 of the Peace Conference Papers recently released by the U.S. Department of State relates how it was done after World War 1. It shows how Allied Council meetings in July and August 1919 directed Herbert Hoover's "humanitarian" mission in hungry Europe in a manner to please Wall Street.

Unemployment Jumps

The long industrial boom seems to have passed its peak in Germany, too. The number of jobless, still low by comparison with the U.S., reached 573,400, 2.6 per cent of the workforce, during the first two weeks in January.

Satisfaction in the U.S. with war prosperity has its ups and downs. It also moves geographically. A while back, Eastern manufacturers were complaining that the West Coast was getting all the big contracts for military equipment. Now it seems that most of the juicy profit jobs are being transferred eastward again because the demand is for "guns, ammunition and helicopters and less for missiles and bombers."

Defense contracts for Washington, Utah and Colorado have fallen off 50 per cent. California barely holds its own. "In Seattle," writes a faithful correspondent, "they are saying it's a hell of a war; Boeing won't hire any more wage slaves for at least six months."

GREAT OBSTACLE RACE: JOB HUNTING

The great game of Obstacle, commonly known as job seeking, is a pursuit diligently engaged in by working class people. Obstacle is a game designed by that famous manufacturer of parlor tricks, Capital, whose object was to popularize a sport so intricate and time-consuming that Labor would have no inclination to get into mischief.

You move your man from place to place across the Obstacle board in his progress toward the goal of a job. Numerous hurdles, detours, forfeits, and retreats are set up along the way to obstruct his advancement. Only the gambler who plays according to the rules laid down by Capital can reach the goal of job security.

The starting point is the Sunday help wanted section of the local daily. A diploma is the credential entitling participation in this game of chance. A roadblock confronts the hapless teenager who seeks work to help support a large family: School dropout — take detour to rock pile.

High school graduates proceed with Trip to Business Office. It is here the rugged contest really commences. The Boss, discovering more competitors in the running than he anticipated, quickly erects new hurdles. Many a man, after squandering time and carfare, finds on his arrival at the office that qualifications of age and work experience were not candidly stated in the help wanted ad. These unsuccessful job candidates detour to the dead files of the State Employment Office.

Others proceed with the Questionnaire at their peril. So many traps and pitfalls are laid in the players' way that few ever advance beyond this point.

The contestant may be tripped up in the job experience section of this extensive quiz. An honest history of himself may reveal a fight with a previous employer, or time spent on unemployment compensation. At the same time, every detail of his personal record must pass the scrutiny of office snoopers. So, too, must the character references and statements of indebtedness and financial worth supplied by the job candidate. Should he resent this violation of his privacy, reasoning that no similar means of company evaluation are open to him, so much the worse for his plans for winning the game.

Another hurdle causing mental anguish is the brazen question: What wage do you expect? Supposing he specifies a wage so high it discourages hiring him altogether? Or, equally baffling, he proposes a salary too low to live on, and that suggests a mediocre economic perspective.

Does the job applicant have a police record? If so, what crimes are forgivable — and will his record be checked?

Those who flunk the question-

naire, detour to the mop-and-broom brigade. Successful candidates jump ahead to the Adjustment Inventory.

At this juncture the contestant is confronted by a battery of questions designed to reduce him to abject confusion. Somewhere in this mental muddle he is destined to confront some such verbal mishmash as this: "If John is twice as old as Jim, and Dick is two years older than Manuel, then how old is Charles?"

Unsuccessful players forfeit the goal and take up weaving. Winners proceed with Personality Test.

"Don't be nervous," admonishes the test administrator, observing the perspiring contestant. "There's no right or wrong answer. We just want a key to your hidden motivations."

Nevertheless, the wary player of Obstacle takes no chances on his educated appraisals or his uninhibited impulses. To the questions, "Would you object if somebody stepped in the line ahead of you?" he answers with a resounding he-man Yes! And to the question probing his conventional responses, "Would you feel very uncomfortable doing something conspicuous, even if you knew what you were doing was right?" he is equally, and positively, emphatic.

If required to describe his hobbies, he avoids admission of such

unmanly cultural pursuits as poetry and music. So, too, does he deny any interest in the rough pastime of picketing. Poets retreat to hairdressing school. Demonstrators detour to garbage collection.

Qualified contestants proceed to the final phase of Obstacle — the Interview. Now the embattled bitter-ender is ushered into the presence of the Boss himself. Two possibilities exist at this crucial point. Mr. Moneybags may be a disciple of the old school, intent upon raising an all but insurmountable barrier. While the unnerved candidate sits on the edge of his chair, focused in a glare of light, his tormentor bombards him with questions aimed at lowering his last resistance.

On the other hand, the Employer may try a new psychological approach. Get him to relax. Let him talk about himself. Then watch for manerisms, a crooked tie, contradictions of statement. Oh, the new technique is as perilous to the unwary job contestant as any of the old tricks!

Unsuccessful candidates at this final stage detour around the corner. Apply for sales job at shoe-lace counter of 5 and 10.

It's been a ruthless battle of wits. Only the toughest survive to the end. The winner of the game proceeds on his new territory with a sample case of hair tonic.

—Dorice McDaniels

California Vag Law Slightly Dented

(Civil Liberties Union Release)

Los Angeles — On January 6, Superior Court Judge Shirley Hufstedler reaffirmed the earlier decision of Pasadena Municipal Court Judge Louis T. Fletcher ruling, that a section of the state's disorderly conduct law was unconstitutional.

The next day, Los Angeles city and county police officers complained that once again the courts had stripped them of a valuable tool for law enforcement. In so doing, they substantiated the assertions of Judge Hufstedler who had argued that the law was not only unconstitutional, but was being used by police in an illegal fashion.

The law Judges Fletcher & Hufstedler held unconstitutional was a vestige of 14th Century English statutes which sought to confine serfs to the lands of their feudal masters. In California, in 1966, a person could be found guilty of disorderly conduct if he loitered or wandered from place to place without apparent reason and who refused to identify himself and to account for his presence when requested by a police officer to do so.

Judge Hufstedler pointed out that such a vagrancy law was preserved on the statute books because of "the tenacious efforts of law enforcement agencies" which

had found such statutes useful, if illegal, ways to enforce the law.

Such laws, and the unconstitutional section was no exception, she wrote, permitted police to make arrests on suspicion alone, charging the arrestee with vagrancy until a more serious crime could be proven.

Vagrancy arrests run counter to the Fourth Amendment, despite the fact that California has had a vagrancy law in one form or another since 1855. Custom and usage could not preserve the constitutionality of the law.

"The restrictions upon the law of arrest," Judge Hufstedler wrote, "ill suit the use of arrest for a specific crime as the basis for detaining and questioning suspicious persons for the purpose of investigating an unsolved crime or of preventing future crime."

—Ed Cray

'They Toil Not'

Less than one-fourth of the able bodied population of Algeria has full-or part-time employment, according go the newspaper of the governing party.

Generally the time reported by a government bureau as "lost through strikes" is the most profitable time put in by the workers involved.

Labor May Lose Cabinet Rank

In his State of the Union speech Jan. 10, President Johnson surprised show-case union officials with the announcement that he proposed to merge the Department of Labor again with the Department of Commerce "and other federal agencies."

"I think," said LBJ, "that we can create a more economical, efficient and streamlined instrument that will better serve a growing nation."

As far back as a hundred years (1866), The National Labor Union called for the establishment of an arm of the federal government to watch over the "interests of labor." In 1903, with Theodore Roosevelt in the White House, Congress enacted a law creating the Department of Commerce and Labor. Ten years later it was split into two departments as it remains to this day.

There is no doubt that top leaders of the conventional labor unions regard the President's proposal as a slap in the face. Several of them are known to have entertained hopes for an appointment as Labor Secretary and all of them have held that "representation of Labor" in the President's cabinet conferred dignity and status on their profession.

However, recent comment by AFL-CIO President George Meany carefully avoided criticism of Johnson's proposal. Meany said only on this point "... we think it important to point out that the Department of Labor was founded in 1913 to eliminate a form of secondclass citizenship for workers whose interests then were relegated to a bureau of the Department of Commerce. We are fully confident that the President has no intention of returning to that concept."

Praising every major policy of the Administration, Meany showed himself in his comments to be that typical Uncle Tom who will stand up for his Mr. Charlie to the bitter end, if only he gets a pat on the back once in a while.

Solid for the Bosses

California Governor Ronald Reagan has appointed reactionary Allen Grant as president of the California Board of Agriculture, an administrative unit that frequently horns-in on farm labor affairs. Grant is a member of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Price of salt is going up, beginning April 1," says Morton Salt Co., a division of Morton International. "Rising production costs" is given as the reason. This probably means that company officials have voted themselves a raise.

Let's Be HUMAN

By HARRY FLEISCHMAN

MEASURED WORDS

Explaining why he kept his campaign talks short and pithy, Judge Thomas Weaver of New York said: "He who speaks by the yard and thinks by the inch should be kicked by the foot."

IS SUCCESS UN-AMERICAN

"Gad, Sir, reforms are all right" cartoonist David Low's Colonel Blimp once said, "as long as they don't change anything." This seems to be the attitude of Mel Farrell, president of Local 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers in New York.

In 1964 the State Commission on Human Rights found Local 28, which has had no Negro members in its 78-year history, guilty of discriminating against Negro applicants. The local was ordered to judge apprenticeship applicants hereafter solely on the basis of objective criteria. The union then decided to use an aptitude test given by New York University's Testing Center, plus personal interviews and physical exams. Dr. Kenneth Clark and the Workers Defense League undertook to tutor prospective applicants. In the first test given in the Spring of 1964, Scott Green became the local's first Negro apprentice. He was the only one of more than 20 Negroes so tutored to get into the program.

The following year, 14 Negro and Puerto Rican youngsters passed the apprentice application test after intensive WDL tutoring. Union secretary-treasurer Thomas Mulhearn said: "As long as the boys made it according to the rules, more power to them." And Bayard Rustin, director of the A. Philip Randolph Education Fund, co-sponsor with the WDL of the Apprenticeship Training Program noted that "this achievement shows that if they can get help and proper tutoring, Negroes and Puerto Ricans can compete with the majority of society."

In 1966, a new apprenticeship test was given, and the WDL again mounted an intensive tutoring program. Its chief tutor, Dennis Derryck, a brilliant 26-year-old Negro teacher, set up a class for 32 Negro students and recruited a group of volunteer Western Electric engineers to help them learn the techniques they would have to know. The students studied 17 hours a week for four weeks, getting cram training in general mathematics, mechanical reasoning and spatial relationships.

When the test was given Nov. 12th, nine of Derryck's students scored among the top ten—one with a prefect score. Twenty-six out of 32 Negro applicants were in the top 60, while only 34 whites

out of 115 passed. Instead of praising Workers Defense League and Dennis Derryck for this remarkable accomplishment, local president Mel Farrell hinted that "the scores may have been obtained by some nefarious means," even though the tests had been kept under lock and key by NYU's Prof. Wallace Gobetz until exam time. Farrell demanded that the test results be scrapped and that the students be forced to take a new exam. The State Commission on Human Rights went to Court and obtained an injunction barring the union and employers from invalidating the test. The final decision of the Court has not yet been handed down as of this writing.

Ironical, isn't it? Whites usually complain, "Why don't Negroes study and work to pull themselves up by their bootstraps like we did?" Then when Negroes succeed through the same kind of cram tutoring that many white students use to get higher scores on college preparatory exams, some of the same whites yell, "Foul!"

PROGRESS?

When Irving M. Engel was in Israel a year ago, he discovered that progress has its price. The famous camel market in Beersheba, so ancient that it is mentioned in the Old Testament, is no more. To provide a slight reminder of the old days, however, Beersheba's Desert Inn has a camel staked out in front of its entrance. Two times a day, reports Mr. Engel, a Bedouin Arab — of the nomadic past — comes into Beersheba to feed, water and exercise the camel. How does he come? Roaring up on a motorcycle!

Public Service Union Sues State

In the first action of its kind, Local 1006, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has filed suit against Illinois state officials to compel recognition and bargaining with the union. The suit names the state director of personnel and the state labor director as the delinquent officials.

Union officials complain that state salaries are low, that workers are four years behind in cost-of-living increases and that layed-off employees of the unemployment compensation division are not eligible for unemployment compensation; also that these employees are not eligible for medicare.

Helen Peckler, Local 1006 president, says the union is not thinking in terms of strike at this time.

"We are waiting with the strike talk until they take our tobacco away from us," a pipe-smoking rank-and-filer remarked to this reporter.

—C.B.

Casey Jones on the Florida E.C. Ry.

The longest railroad strike in history is still going on. Four years ago, shopmen and other non-operating workers of the Florida East Coast Ry. "pulled the pin" in a demand for improved work rules and wages.

Engineers and other train operating workers promised support, but like Casey Jones in Joe Hill's famous song, they "wouldn't strike at all."

Some of the issues in this record strike are before state and federal courts and the National Mediation Board. The striking unions are still trying to get the federal courts to take the railroad away from the Florida Du Pont Estate and to appoint a receiver to manage it independent of the big trust which dominates a cross-section of Florida business including banks, real estate, saw mills and other timber processing plants.

A more important gain for the strikers would be to win a fight on the picket line front at the Jacksonville Terminal. The terminal serves the Southern, Seaboard and Atlantic Coast Line railroads as well as the struck Florida East Coast. The strikers have been seeking court permission to picket all the entrances to this terminal. A Florida state ruling permits the strikers to picket only one entrance, the one used by FEC employees. Employees of other railroads and of the Terminal use other entrances to get to their jobs where they handle the scab freight of the FEC along with freight of the

other roads. It is believed they would not cross picket lines if these could be set up.

Like other railroads, the FEC makes its money by transporting freight. The road earned \$2,900,000 for the Florida Duponts in 1965, and \$2,700,000 in 1964. But last year the road made less than a million, because of investments, its officials say.

If in some manner the strikers could induce the Jacksonville Terminal to refuse to transfer freight from or to the struck railroad, the strikers would have it made. For that reason the strikers appear to look more to the courts than to any spontaneous act of solidarity on the part of other railroad workers, even though these are members of the same brotherhoods.

On January 23 this strike entered its fifth year. During 1964 there were dynimiting incidents in which freight cars and engines were derailed. Of course, the company blamed strikers and tried to use the incidents to discredit the unions and the strike, but without success.

From one point of view at least, the most outstanding feature of this four-year strike is the fact that alleged union men have been operating the trains while workers who service the tracks and cars and locomotives have been on strike and have seen their jobs taken over by scabs. Are the "Casey Joneses" on this job, even though they wear a union button and carry a brotherhood card in their pockets, scabs too?

Mine-Mill Union Joins Steelworkers

TUCSON, Ariz. — President I. W. Abel of the United Steelworkers of America, addressing 250 delegates to a convention of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers who on January 17 had unanimously approved the merger of the two unions, declared the consolidation "will help create a new atmosphere and a fresh spirit in the labor movement of America."

"This is a beginning, he said, "of a fresh historic chapter in the eternal struggle of our people to win for themselves and their families a brighter and better tomorrow."

The initial step toward the merger of these two unions was taken last February 18 at a meeting of their presidents. It was only a matter of a few months after this meeting that a Federal judge in Washington, D.C., on motion of the Justice Department, dismissed long pending conspiracy charges against several Mine-Mill officials. Thus the Mine-Mill union purged of taint stepped up for the ceremony that united it with the Steelworkers.

One of the country's oldest labor unions, Mine-Mill was found-

ed in 1893 as the Western Federation of Miners, a militant miners' union which was briefly (1906-07) a part of the IWW.

Tracing the parallels in the histories of Mine-Mill and the Steelworkers, including opposition of companies that often produced violence, Abel declared that future struggles still lie ahead. "Let's always remember," he said, "that human progress has never been served to mankind on a silver platter . . . that men of faith and courage have had to fight to bring to fulfillment their dreams and their hopes and their aspirations."

Continuing, Abel named "Big Bill" Haywood, Joseph Hillstrom, Hilding Anderson and Henson Clark as examples "of men who believed in industrial democracy and were willing to pay the supreme price for it." And he declared, "we are all here today, adding still another chapter to the story of our ceaseless fight for social and economic justice."

On adjournment, the convention delegates, joined the picket line of the Tucson Typographical Union, now engaged in a bitter strike against the Arizona Daily Star and the Tucson Daily Citizen.